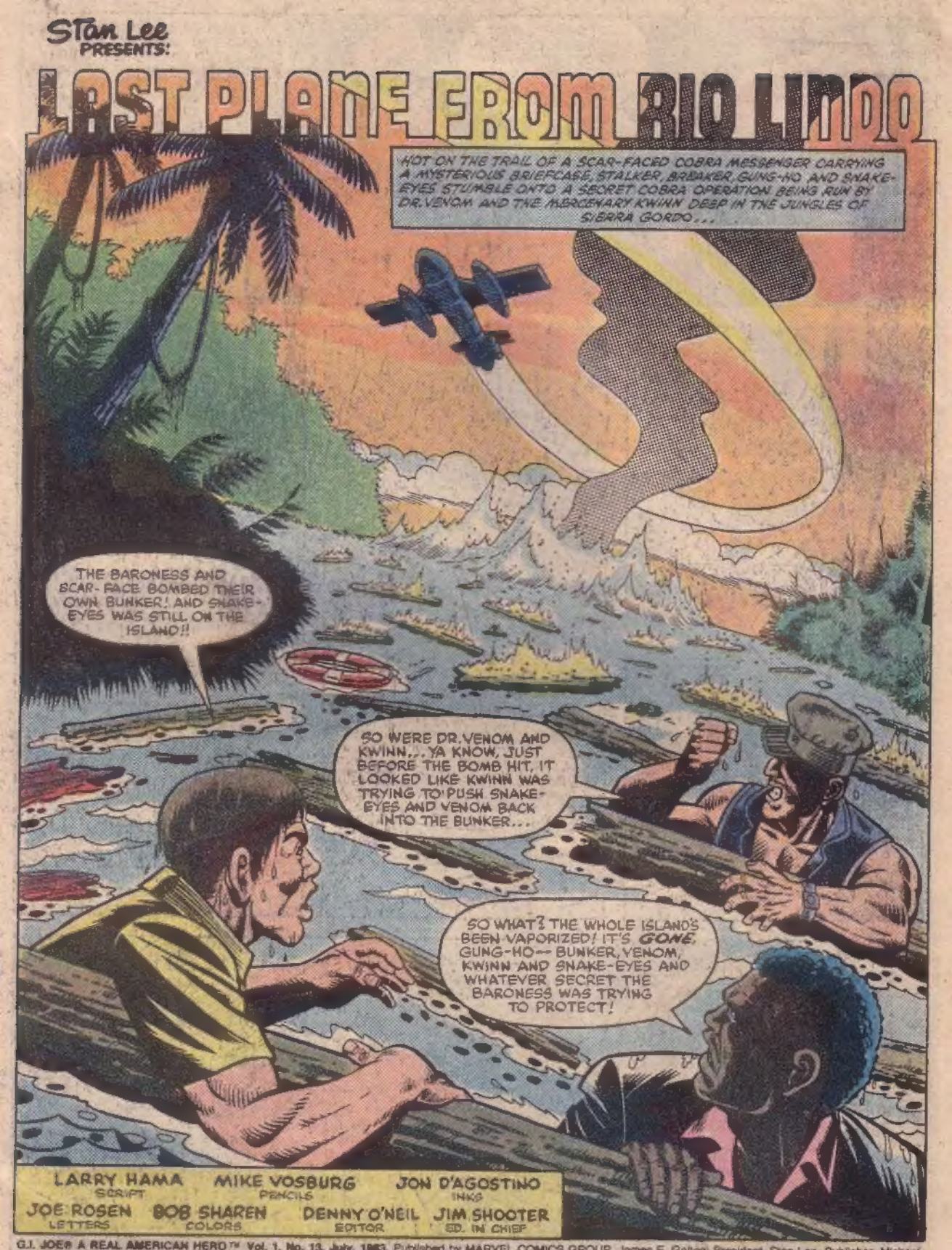
Stan Lee PRESENTS:

LAST PLANE FROM RIO LINDO



LARRY HAMA — SCRIPT
MIKE VOSBURG — PENCILS
JON D'AGOSTINO — INKS
JOE ROSEN — LETTERS
BOB SHAREN — COLORS
DENNY O'NEIL — EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER — ED. IN CHIEF

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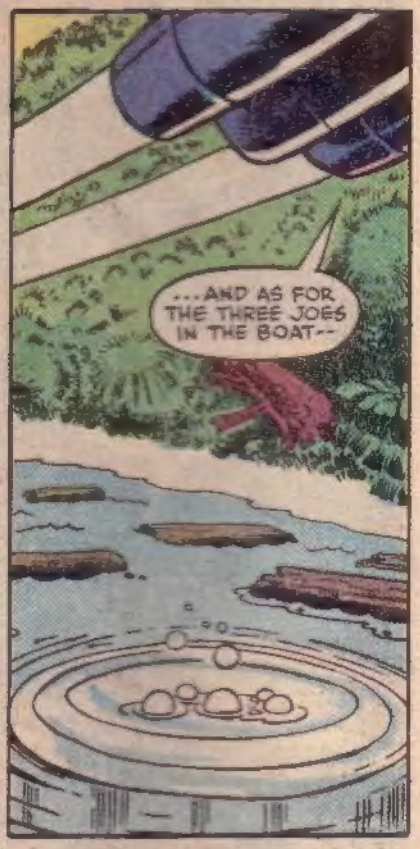
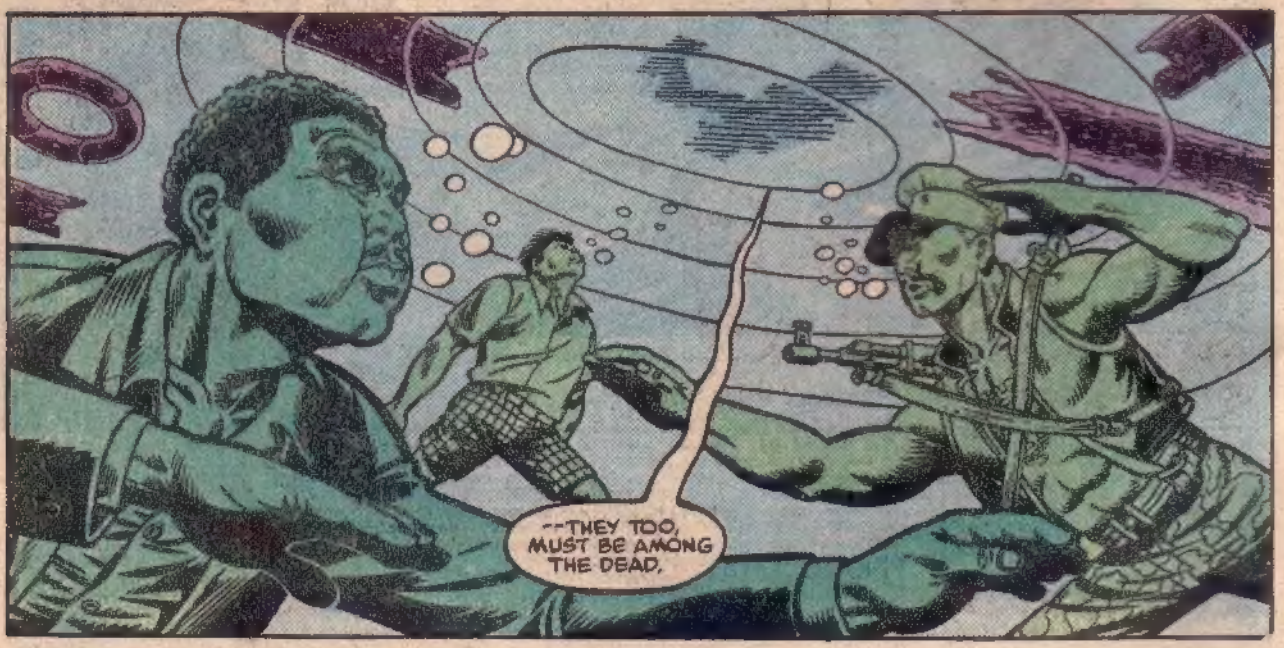
...A PERFECT SHOT, BARONESS! DR. VENOM HAD OUT-LIVED HIS USEFULNESS, KWINN WAS TOO UNPREDICTABLE AND...
...AND SNAKE-EYES WAS SOMEONE YOU WOULDN'T HAVE WANTED TO MEET ON EQUAL TERMS! THEY WERE THE THREE MOST CUNNING AND DANGEROUS MEN I'VE EVER MET. LET'S CIRCLE BACK--

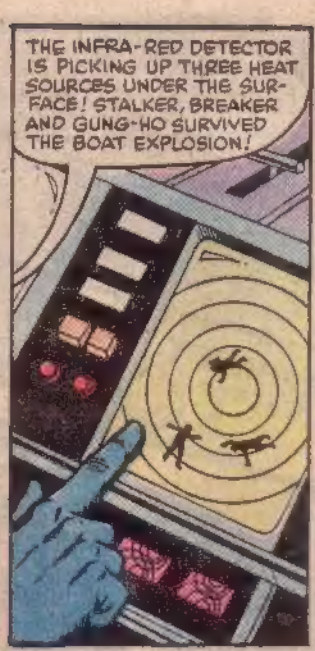
--AND MAKE SURE THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF SURVIVORS.

YOU'RE BEING OVERLY CAUTIOUS, BARONESS. THE ISLAND HAS DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE...

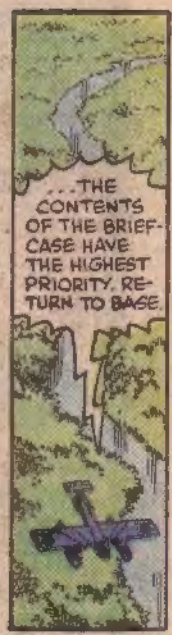

...AND AS FOR THE THREE JOES IN THE BOAT--


--THEY TOO, MUST BE AMONG THE DEAD.

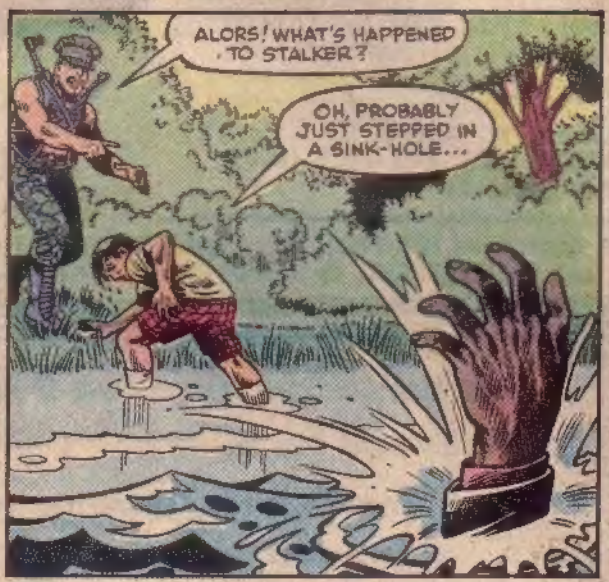
SO. IT IS TIME TO PLOT A COURSE NORTHWARD. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT HIS BRIEFCASE IS DELIVERED TO--
--SPRINGFIELD.
AHA!


THE INFRA-RED DETECTOR IS PICKING UP THREE HEAT SOURCES UNDER THE SURFACE! STALKER, BREAKER AND GUNG-HO SURVIVED THE BOAT EXPLOSION!

COBRA COMMANDER. I AM REQUESTING PERMISSION TO CIRCLE BACK AND FINISH OFF THE REMAINING JOES...
PERMISSION DENIED...

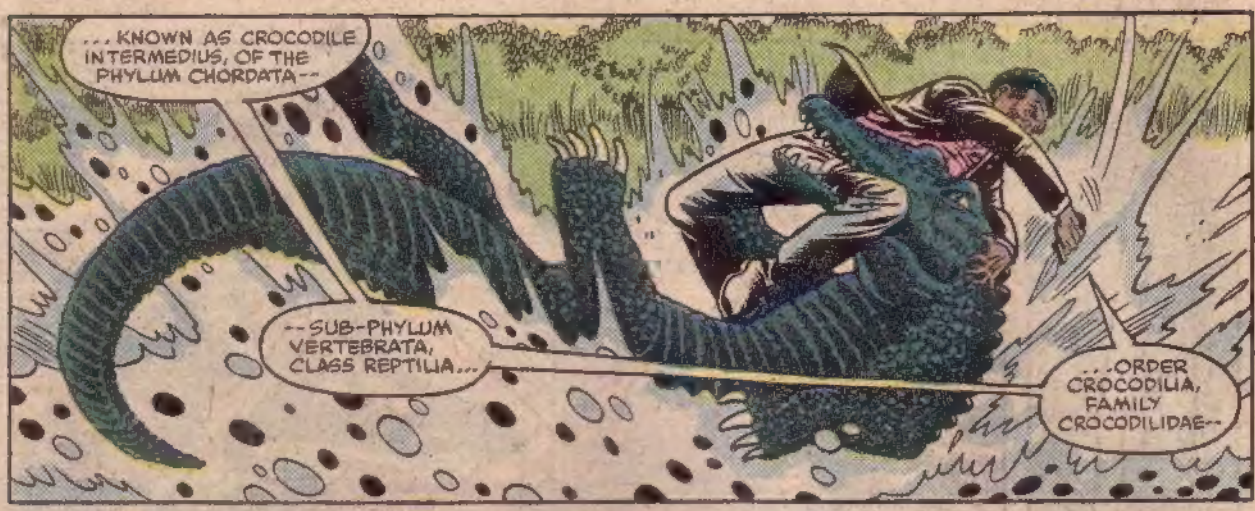

...THE CONTENTS OF THE BRIEFCASE HAVE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY. RETURN TO BASE.

ALL SHE HAD TO DO WAS PUT A QUICK BURST IN THE WATER AND WE WOULD'VE BEEN FISH FOOD. WHY'D SHE JUST LEAVE?
MAYBE SHE HAD A HOT DATE TO STRANGLE SOME PUPPIES. HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
WHO'S SAYIN' SHE'S NOT COMING BACK? EH? I SAY WE GET UNDER COVER TOOT-SUITE AND--

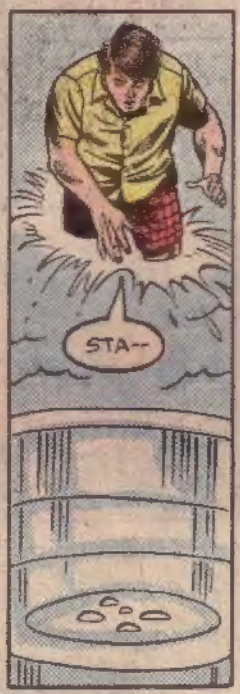

ALORS! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO STALKER?
OH, PROBABLY JUST STEPPED IN A SINK-HOLE...

BEEN DOWN A LONG TIME...

GATOR!!
THIS AIN'T NO 'GATOR! THIS HERE'S AN ORINOCO CROCODILE...


...KNOWN AS CROCODILE INTERMEDIUS, OF THE PHYLUM CHORDATA--
--SUB-PHYLUM VERTEBRATA, CLASS REPTILIA...
...ORDER CROCODILIA, FAMILY CROCODILIDAE--

STALKER!


STA--

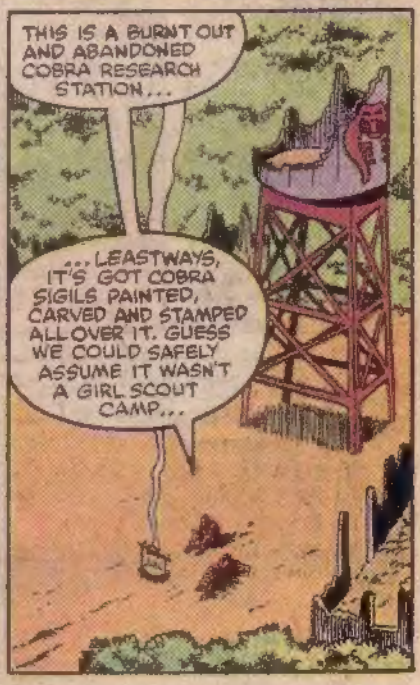
--PRESENT STATUS: DEAD!

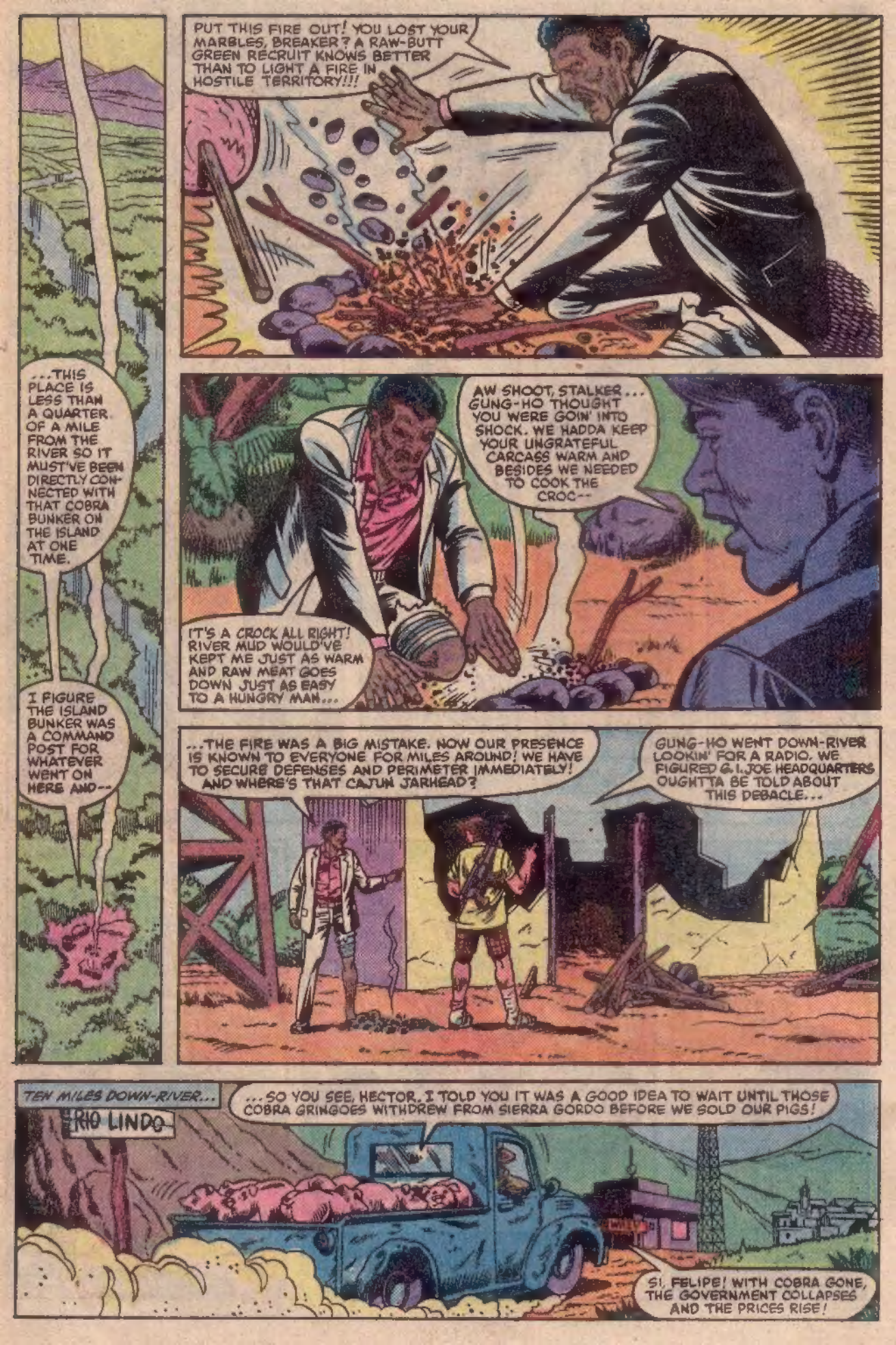
TAKE IT EASY... YOUR LEG...
'S'ALL RIGHT... I'M FINE ...I'M JES'--

SPLAT!

HOURS LATER...
WHA?
WELCOME BACK TO THE LAND OF THE AWAKE AND AWARE...

...JUST IN TIME TO HAVE SOME YUMMY ROAST CROCODILE TOO... SEEMS ONLY FAIR SEEING AS HOW HE GOT A TASTE OF YOU!
WH-WHERE ARE WE?


THIS IS A BURNT OUT AND ABANDONED COBRA RESEARCH STATION...
...LEASTWAYS, IT'S GOT COBRA SIGILS PAINTED, CARVED AND STAMPED ALL OVER IT. GUESS WE COULD SAFELY ASSUME IT WASN'T A GIRL SCOUT CAMP...

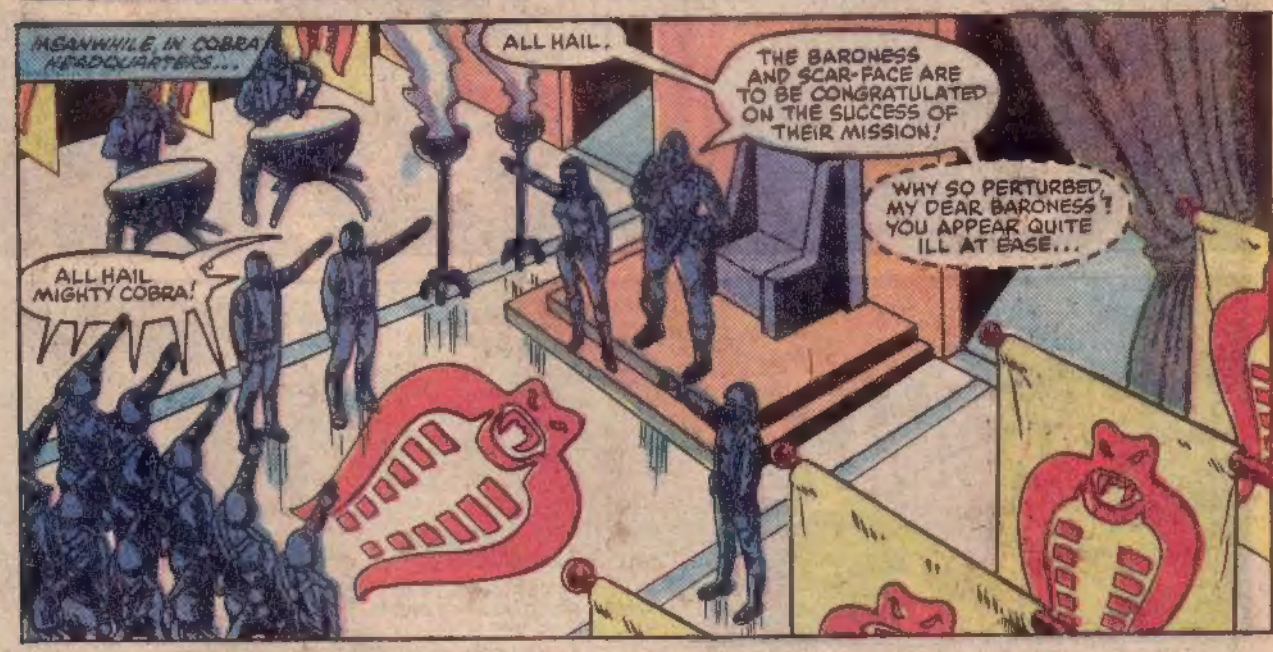

PUT THIS FIRE OUT! YOU LOST YOUR MARBLES, BREAKER? A RAW-BUTT GREEN RECRUIT KNOWS BETTER THAN TO LIGHT A FIRE IN HOSTILE TERRITORY!!!
...THIS PLACE IS LESS THAN A QUARTER OF A MILE FROM THE RIVER SO IT MUST'VE BEEN DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH THAT COBRA BUNKER ON THE ISLAND AT ONE TIME.
I FIGURE THE ISLAND BUNKER WAS A COMMAND POST FOR WHATEVER WENT ON HERE AND--
AW SHOOT, STALKER... GUNG-HO THOUGHT YOU WERE GOIN' INTO SHOCK. WE HADDA KEEP YOUR UNGRATEFUL CARCASS WARM AND BESIDES WE NEEDED TO COOK THE CROC--
IT'S A CROCK ALL RIGHT! RIVER MUD WOULD'VE KEPT ME JUST AS WARM AND RAW MEAT GOES DOWN JUST AS EASY TO A HUNGRY MAN...
...THE FIRE WAS A BIG MISTAKE. NOW OUR PRESENCE IS KNOWN TO EVERYONE FOR MILES AROUND! WE HAVE TO SECURE DEFENSES AND PERIMETER IMMEDIATELY! AND WHERE'S THAT CAJUN JARHEAD?
GUNG-HO WENT DOWN-RIVER LOOKIN' FOR A RADIO. WE FIGURED G.I. JOE HEADQUARTERS OUGHTTA BE TOLD ABOUT THIS DEBACLE...
TEN MILES DOWN-RIVER...
RIO LINDO
...SO YOU SEE, HECTOR, I TOLD YOU IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO WAIT UNTIL THOSE COBRA GRINGOES WITHDREW FROM SIERRA GORDO BEFORE WE SOLD OUR PIGS!
SI, FELIPE! WITH COBRA GONE, THE GOVERNMENT COLLAPSES AND THE PRICES RISE!

AND BESIDES, WITH ALL THOSE RECENTLY UNEMPLOYED FEDERALES ROAMING THE JUNGLES, WE ARE MUCH SAFER SPENDING OUR FAT PROFITS IN DOWN-TOWN RIO LINDO!

PARDONNEZ-MOI, MY FRIENDS! STOP THE TRUCK, I WANT TO GET OFF HERE AT THE RADIO STATION!
EH? WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING BACK THERE?
WREV
QUIET, HECTOR... HE HAS A GUN...

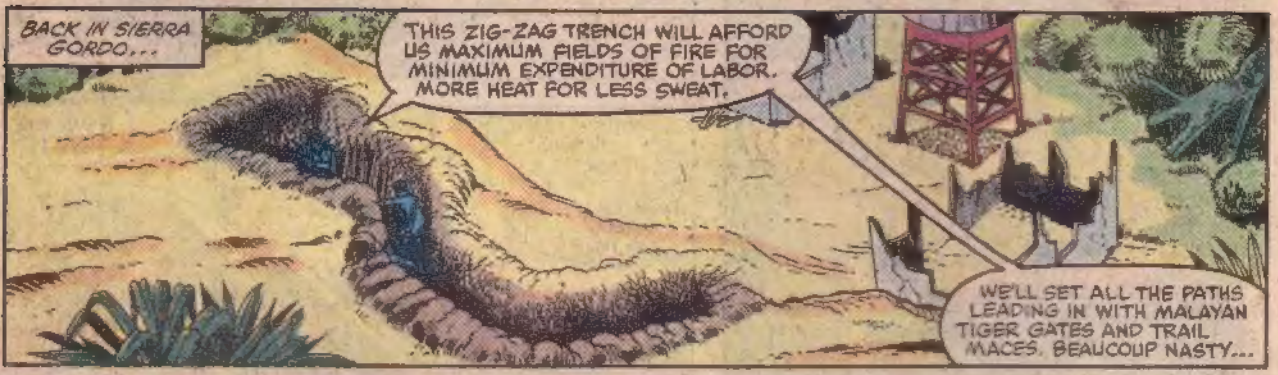
LOOK, I'M NO CRIMINAL. I'D LIKE TO PAY YOU FOR THE RIDE AND I'D ALSO LIKE TO BUY A HAT AND SERAPE FROM YOU...

...TROUBLE IS, I'VE GOT NO DINERO. HOWSABOUT A TRADE FOR A LIGHTER WITH A BIRD N' BALL ON IT?
WE DON'T SMOKE--
--WE'LL TAKE IT!!!

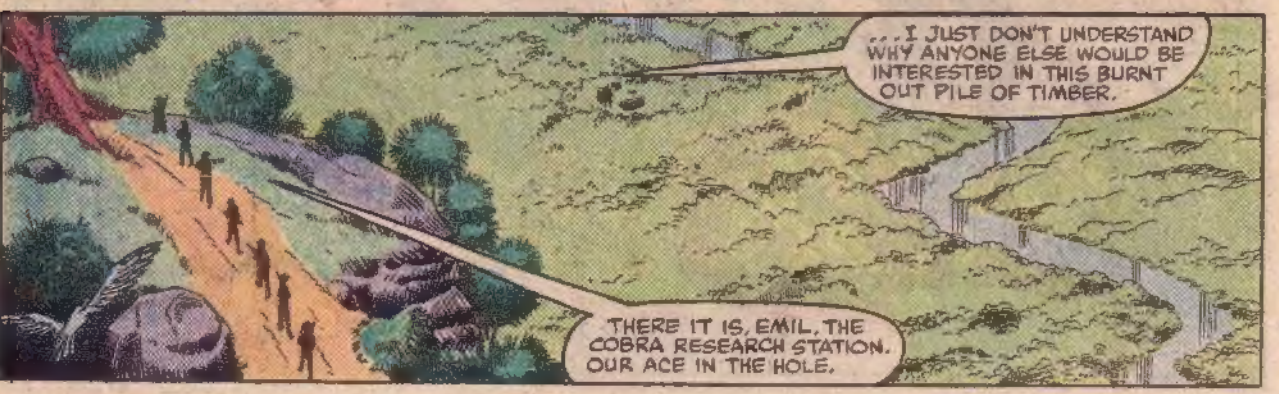

MEANWHILE, IN COBRA HEADQUARTERS...
ALL HAIL.
THE BARONESS AND SCAR-FACE ARE TO BE CONGRATULATED ON THE SUCCESS OF THEIR MISSION!
WHY SO PERTURBED, MY DEAR BARONESS? YOU APPEAR QUITE ILL AT EASE...
ALL HAIL MIGHTY COBRA!

IT'S SCAR-FACE. BACK IN SIERRA GORDO, HE SEEMED TO BE IN TOO MUCH OF A HURRY TO GET AWAY. ALMOST AS IF HE WANTED THE THREE JOES IN THE RIVER TO ESCAPE...
HE HAD ORDERS TO RETURN WITH THE BRIEF CASE, POST HASTE. PERHAPS HE WAS A BIT OVERZEALOUS...
I SUSPECT OTHER MOTIVATIONS...

...OTHER LOYALTIES!
AND TO *WHOM* ARE THOSE OTHER LOYALTIES DUE, MY DEAR BARONESS?


BACK IN SIERRA GORDO...
THIS ZIG-ZAG TRENCH WILL AFFORD US MAXIMUM FIELDS OF FIRE FOR MINIMUM EXPENDITURE OF LABOR. MORE HEAT FOR LESS SWEAT.
WE'LL SET ALL THE PATHS LEADING IN WITH MALAYAN TIGER GATES AND TRAIL MACES. BEAUCOUP NASTY...

...AND THESE PUNJI STAKES WILL GO IN HIDDEN PITS BEHIND EVERY TREE THAT COULD GIVE COVER TO AN ASSAULT FORCE.
DON'T GET ME WRONG, STALKER...I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY HARM IN BEING TOO CAREFUL AND PLAYING BY THE TEXTBOOK...


...I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY ANYONE ELSE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THIS BURNT OUT PILE OF TIMBER.
THERE IT IS, EMIL, THE COBRA RESEARCH STATION. OUR ACE IN THE HOLE.

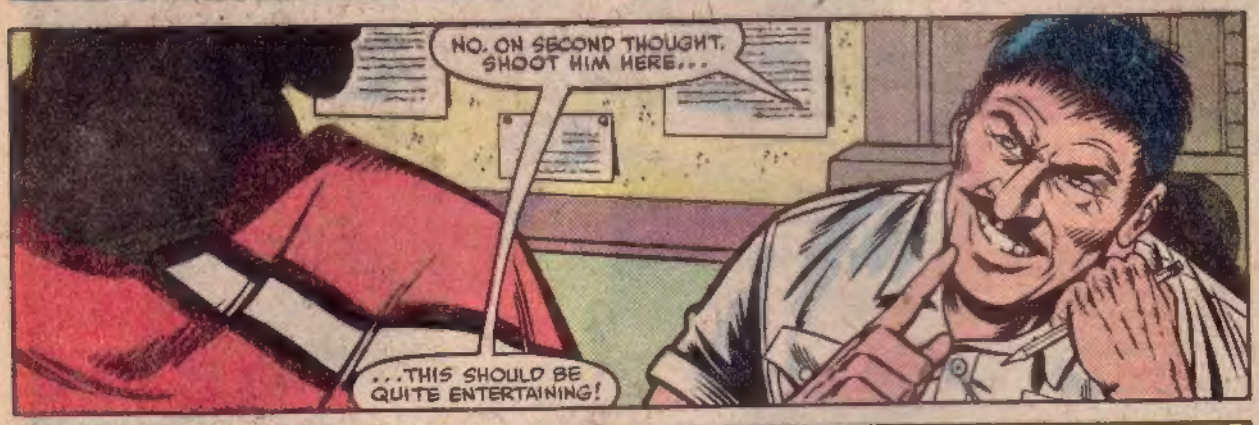
YOU'RE MAD, RICHTER. THAT CHARRED CLEARING IS TEN KILOMETERS OUT OF OUR WAY! THE GOVERNMENT HAS COLLAPSED. LET'S GET OUT WHILE WE CAN... MAKE OUR WAY TO A FRENCH PORT--ANOTHER HITCH IN THE LEGION PARAS WON'T SEEM SO BAD AFTER THIS...

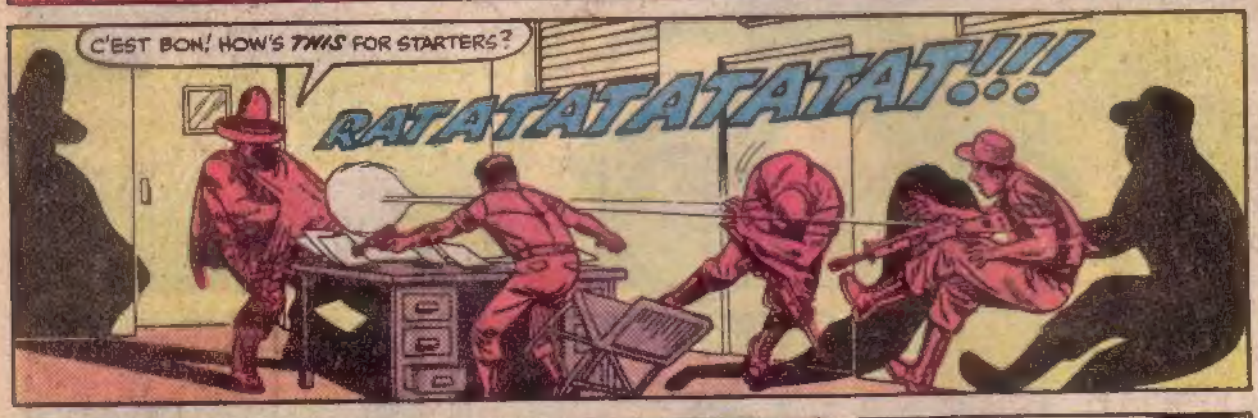
HRMPH! EVEN THE FOREIGN LEGION WON'T HAVE US AFTER WHAT WE DID THAT LAST TIME IN ALGERIA!

COBRA MADE A HASTY WITHDRAWAL FROM THESE FACILITIES. THEY MAY HAVE BEEN LESS THAN METICULOUS IN THEIR "SANITIZING" OPERATIONS. CAREFUL GLEANING MIGHT YIELD A FEW SCRAPS OF HARD INFORMATION...

...AND HARD INFORMATION ABOUT COBRA ACTIVITIES CAN ALWAYS BE CONVERTED TO COLD CASH ON THE INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE!

GUARDS! TAKE THIS VERY WITTY, SMELLY PEASANT OUTSIDE AND SHOOT HIM LIKE A DOG!

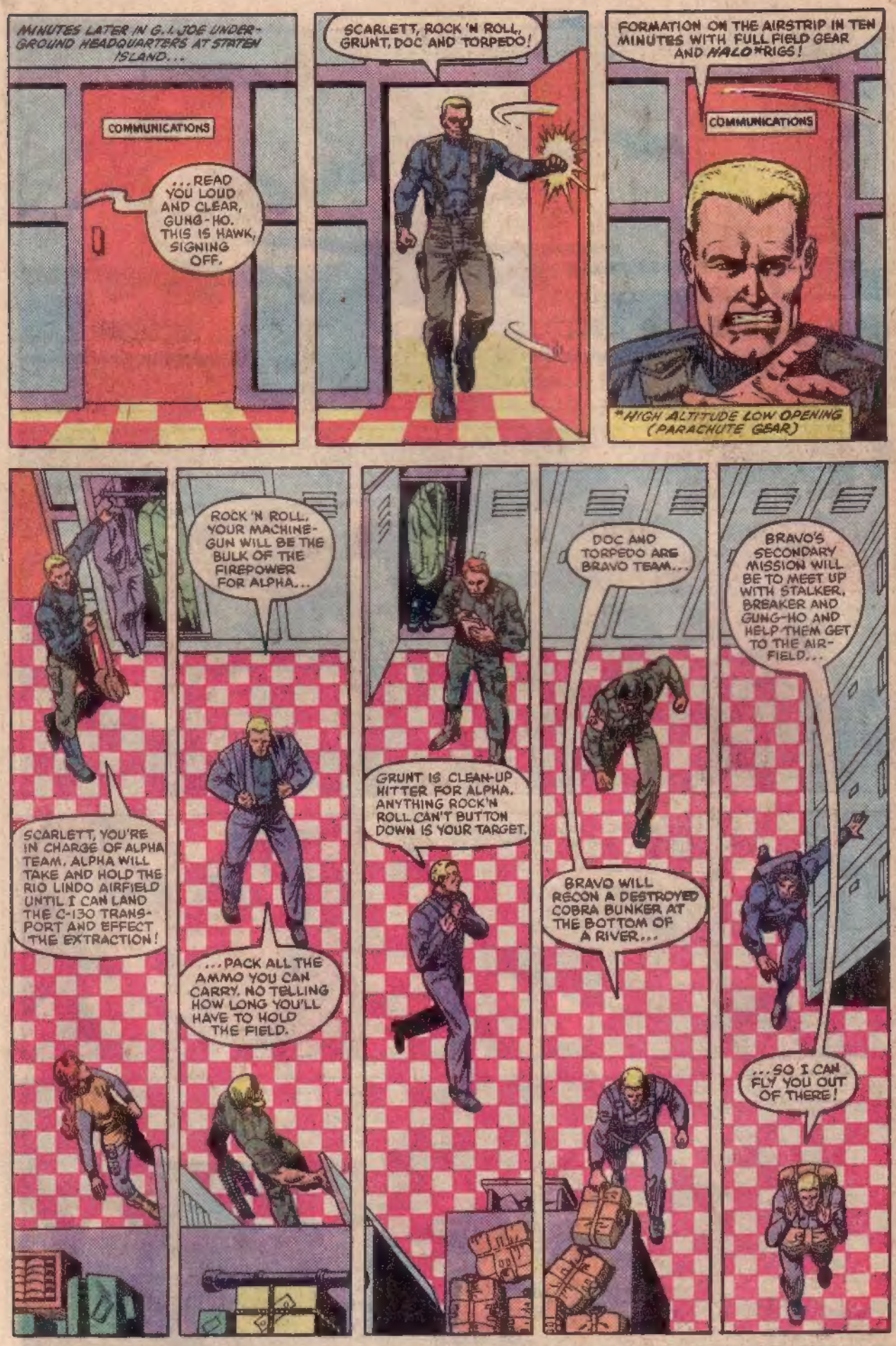

NO. ON SECOND THOUGHT, SHOOT HIM HERE...
...THIS SHOULD BE QUITE ENTERTAINING!


C'EST BON! HOW'S THIS FOR STARTERS?
RATATATATATAT!!!!

QU' EST-CE QUE C'EST? WHAT'S THE MATTER?

YOU'RE NOT LAUGHING...

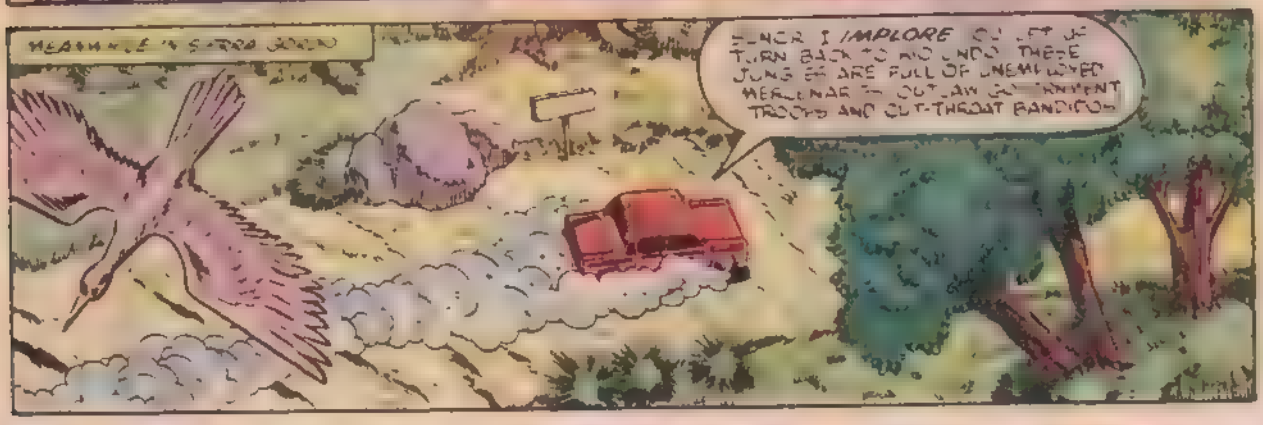
...AREN'T YOU ENTERTAINED?
SPLATT!

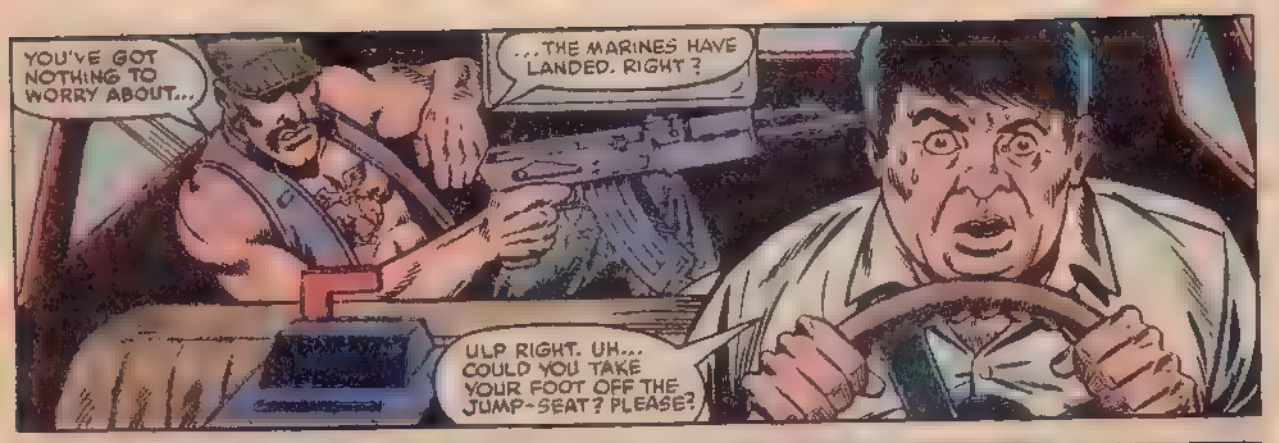

MINUTES LATER IN G.I. JOE UNDERGROUND HEADQUARTERS AT STATEN ISLAND...
COMMUNICATIONS
...READ YOU LOUD AND CLEAR, GUNG-HO. THIS IS HAWK, SIGNING OFF.
SCARLETT, ROCK 'N ROLL, GRUNT, DOC AND TORPEDO!
FORMATION ON THE AIRSTRIP IN TEN MINUTES WITH FULL FIELD GEAR AND HALO*RIGS!
COMMUNICATIONS
*HIGH ALTITUDE LOW OPENING (PARACHUTE GEAR)
SCARLETT, YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF ALPHA TEAM. ALPHA WILL TAKE AND HOLD THE RIO LINDO AIRFIELD UNTIL I CAN LAND THE C-130 TRANSPORT AND EFFECT THE EXTRACTION!
ROCK 'N ROLL, YOUR MACHINE-GUN WILL BE THE BULK OF THE FIREPOWER FOR ALPHA...
...PACK ALL THE AMMO YOU CAN CARRY. NO TELLING HOW LONG YOU'LL HAVE TO HOLD THE FIELD.
GRUNT IS CLEAN-UP HITTER FOR ALPHA. ANYTHING ROCK'N ROLL CAN'T BUTTON DOWN IS YOUR TARGET.
DOC AND TORPEDO ARE BRAVO TEAM...
BRAVO WILL RECON A DESTROYED COBRA BUNKER AT THE BOTTOM OF A RIVER...
BRAVO'S SECONDARY MISSION WILL BE TO MEET UP WITH STALKER, BREAKER AND GUNG-HO AND HELP THEM GET TO THE AIRFIELD...
...SO I CAN FLY YOU OUT OF THERE!

TEN MINUTES LATER...
HAUL IT OUT! MOVE IT! WE'VE GOT THREE JOES IN A TIGHT SPOT AND THEY'RE COUNTING ON US TO GET THEM OUT OF IT!

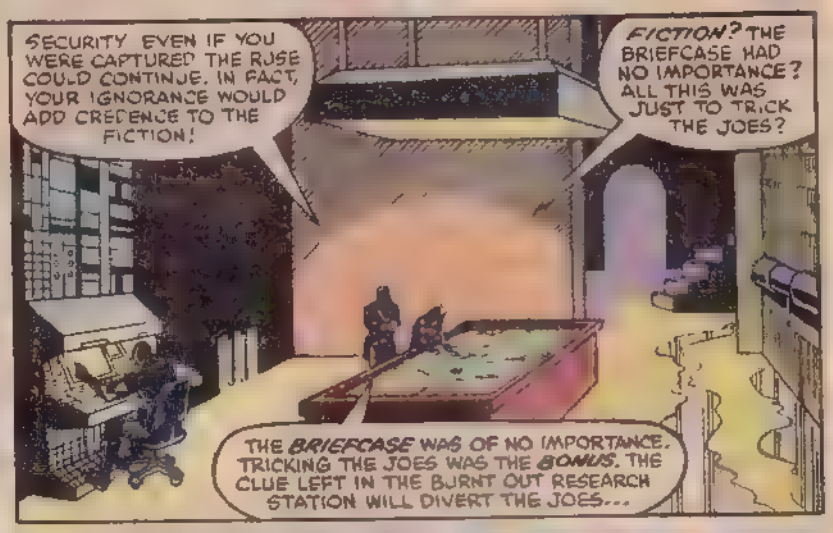
THREE? YOU JUST SAID "THREE JOES"! AND BACK IN THE PIT YOU SAID THAT BRAVO TEAM WAS GOING TO RENDEZVOUS WITH STALKER BREAKER AND GUNG-HO!
HAWK FOUR JOES WENT ON THAT MISSION TO SIERRA GORDO. SNAKE-EYES WAS WITH THEM. THAT MAKES FOUR... DID SNAKE-EYES--

GET ON THE PLANE, SCARLETT. I'LL BRIEF EVERYONE AS SOON AS WE'RE AIRBORNE AND ENROUTE TO TARGET!


MEANWHILE IN SIERRA GORDO
SENOR I IMPLORE YOU LET US TURN BACK TO RIO LINDO. THESE JUNGLES ARE FULL OF UNEMPLOYED MERCENARIES, OUTLAW GOVERNMENT TROOPS AND CUT-THROAT BANDITOS!

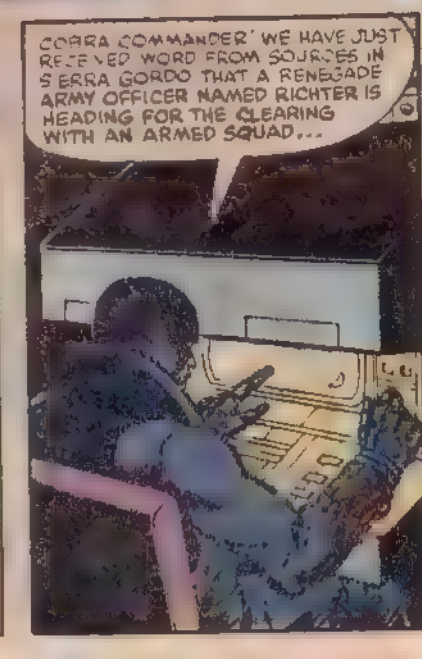

YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT...
...THE MARINES HAVE LANDED, RIGHT?
ULP RIGHT. UH... COULD YOU TAKE YOUR FOOT OFF THE JUMP-SEAT? PLEASE?

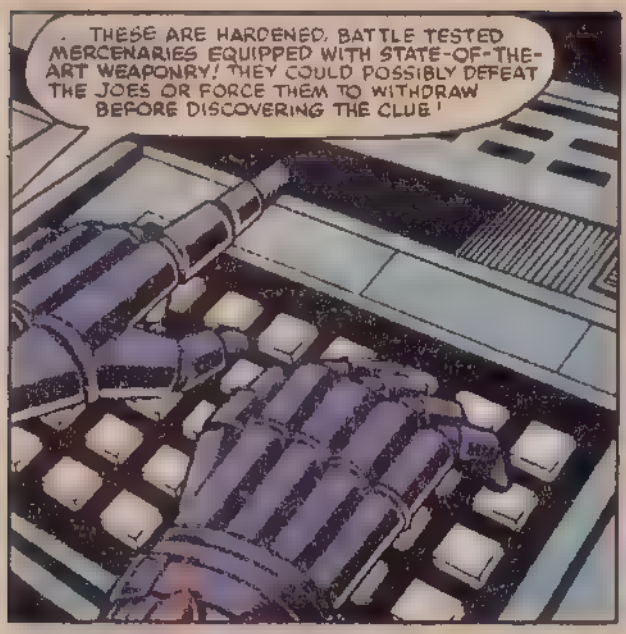
COBRA COMMANDER, ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT THE COURIER SCAR-FACE WAS ACTING UNDER POST-HYPNOTIC SUGGESTIONS? THAT IN A TRANCE STATE HE PURPOSELY PLANTED CLUES TO THE LOCATION OF COBRA'S NEXT OPERATION IN A PLACE WHERE THE G.I. JOE TEAM WOULD BE SURE TO FIND IT?
PRECISELY, MY DEAR BARONESS...
.. HE WAS ALSO GIVEN A STRONG SUGGESTION TO PREVENT YOU FROM KILLING ALL THE JOES. OF COURSE HE REMEMBERS NONE OF THIS.
WHY WASN'T I TOLD OF THIS?

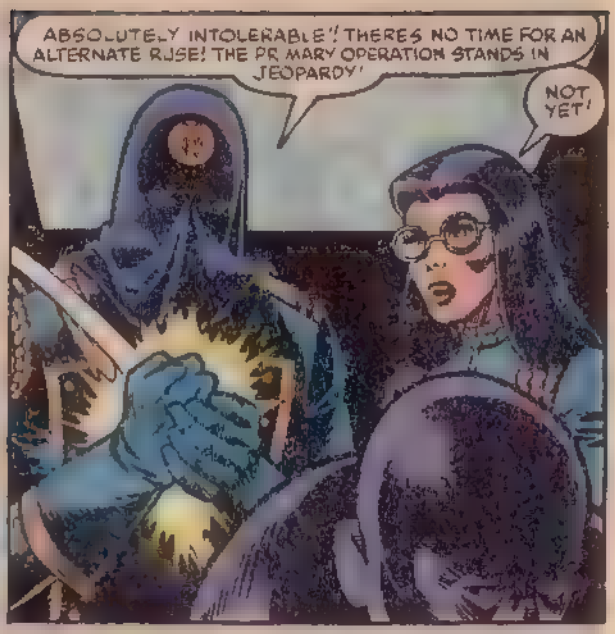

SECURITY EVEN IF YOU WERE CAPTURED THE RUSE COULD CONTINUE. IN FACT, YOUR IGNORANCE WOULD ADD CREDENCE TO THE FICTION!
FICTION? THE BRIEFCASE HAD NO IMPORTANCE? ALL THIS WAS JUST TO TRICK THE JOES?
THE BRIEFCASE WAS OF NO IMPORTANCE. TRICKING THE JOES WAS THE BONUS. THE CLUE LEFT IN THE BURNT OUT RESEARCH STATION WILL DIVERT THE JOES...

...LEAD THEM FAR FROM THE REAL LOCATION OF OUR NEXT OPERATION. AN OPERATION THAT WILL COMMENCE WITH MY ARRIVAL...
.. WITH THE BRIEFCASE
RESEARCH STATION?

THAT'S THE REASON FOR THE PRESENCE OF THIS MODEL! THIS IS THE RIVER WHERE WE DESTROYED THE BUNKER WITH THAT TRAITOR DR. VENOM, KWINN AND SNAKE-EYES ...THE CLEARING WITH THE RE-SEARCH STATION IS IN A DIRECT LINE OF SIGHT WITH THE ISLAND WE BOMBED...
YES. AT ONE TIME THEY WERE LINKED BY--


COBRA COMMANDER! WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED WORD FROM SOURCES IN SIERRA GORDO THAT A RENEGADE ARMY OFFICER NAMED RICHTER IS HEADING FOR THE CLEARING WITH AN ARMED SQUAD...

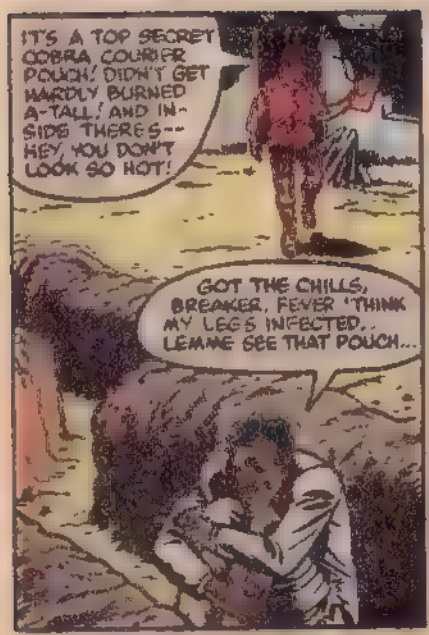




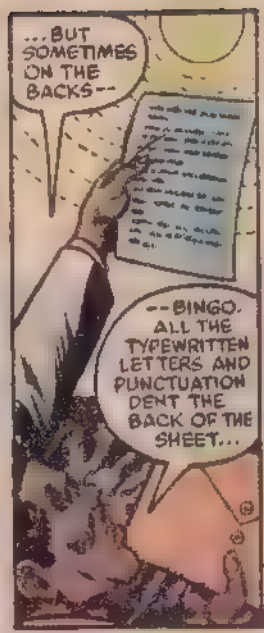
COBRA PARATROOPERS! WE COULD DROP THEM AT THE RIVER TO INTERDICT THE MERCENARIES AND--

--COBRA PARATROOPERS COMING TO THE RESCUE OF THE G.I. JOES? NOT AN EXTREMELY IMAGINATIVE WAY OF PRYING OUR MUFFINS OUT OF THE TOASTER, EH? NO. I'VE ALREADY DEALT WITH THE MATTER...

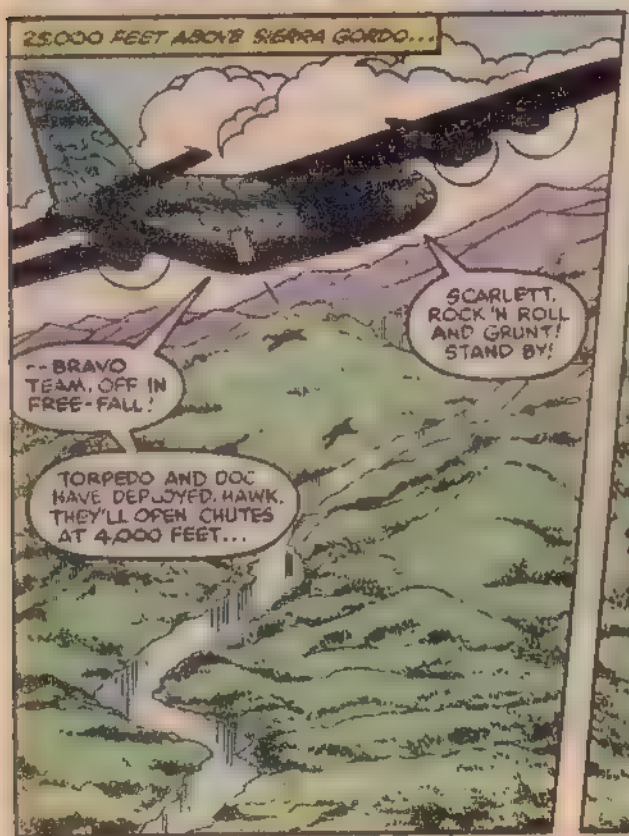
STALKER! YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS! GUESS WHAT I FOUND IN ONE OF THE BURNT OUT BUILDINGS?

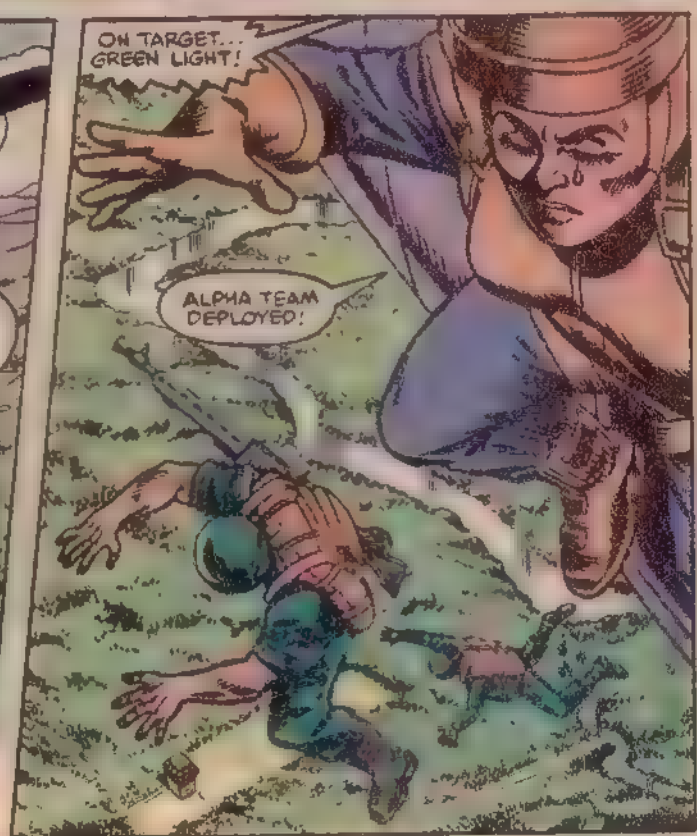

IT'S A TOP SECRET COBRA COURIER POUCH! DIDN'T GET HARDLY BURNED A-TALL! AND INSIDE THERE'S-- HEY, YOU DON'T LOOK SO HOT!
GOT THE CHILLS, BREAKER. FEVER 'THINK MY LEGS INFECTED.. LEMME SEE THAT POUCH...

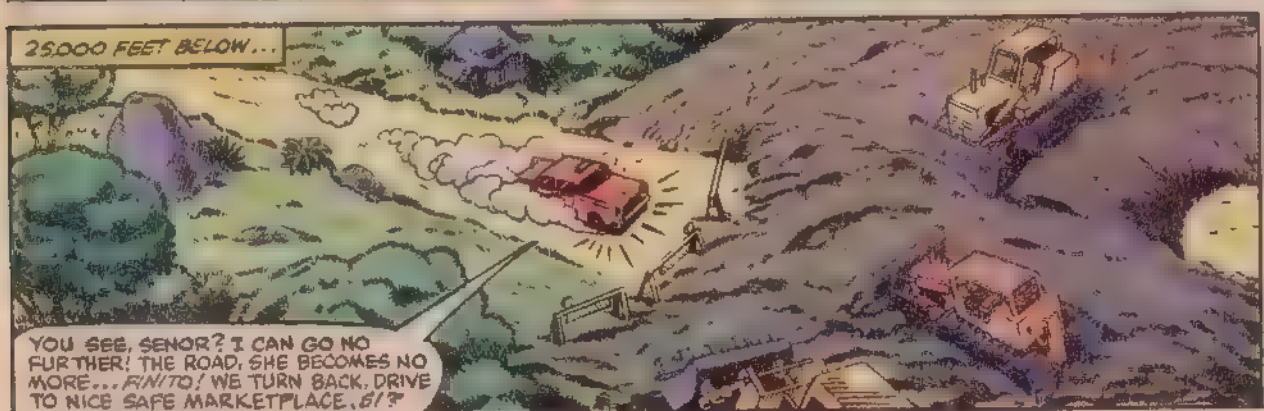
IT'S ALL IN "OPEN." NOT CODED LISTS, NAMES, NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES. ALL THEIR AGENTS?
NO WAY. ANYTHING IN "OPEN" IS FAKE...

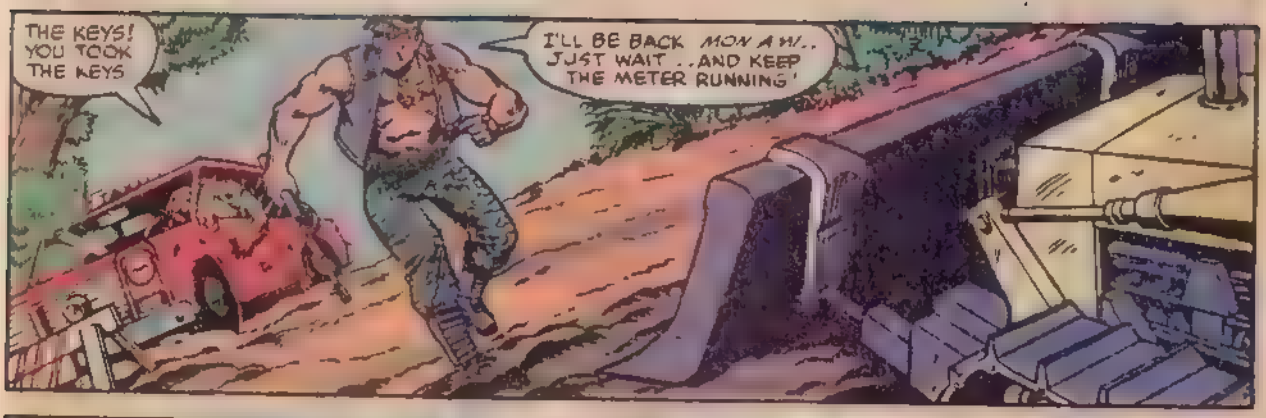

...BUT SOMETIMES ON THE BACKS--
--BINGO. ALL THE TYPEWRITTEN LETTERS AND PUNCTUATION DENT THE BACK OF THE SHEET...

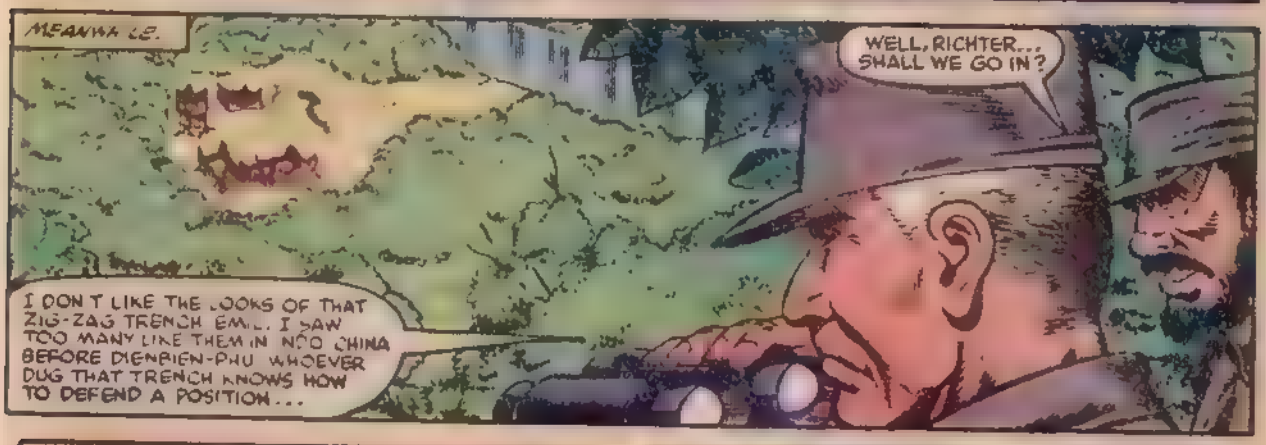
..EXCEPT FOR THE DOT OVER THIS "i"
MICRO-DOT!

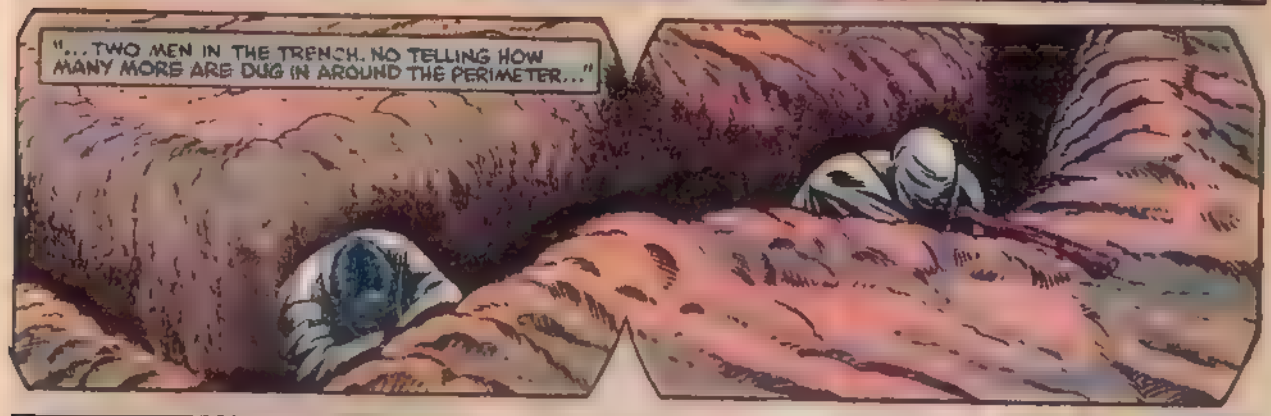

25,000 FEET ABOVE SIERRA GORDO...
SCARLETT, ROCK 'N ROLL AND GRUNT! STAND BY!
--BRAVO TEAM, OFF IN FREE-FALL!
TORPEDO AND DOC HAVE DEPLOYED. HAWK, THEY'LL OPEN CHUTES AT 4,000 FEET...


ON TARGET... GREEN LIGHT!
ALPHA TEAM DEPLOYED!


25,000 FEET BELOW...
YOU SEE, SENOR? I CAN GO NO FURTHER! THE ROAD, SHE BECOMES NO MORE... FINITO! WE TURN BACK, DRIVE TO NICE SAFE MARKETPLACE, SI?

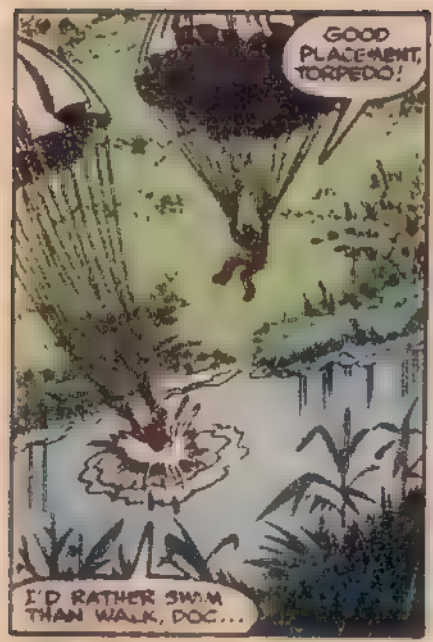

THE KEYS! YOU TOOK THE KEYS
I'LL BE BACK MON AMI.. JUST WAIT ..AND KEEP THE METER RUNNING!


MEANWHILE.
WELL, RICHTER... SHALL WE GO IN?
I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THAT ZIG-ZAG TRENCH EMILE. I SAW TOO MANY LIKE THEM IN NOO CHINA BEFORE DIENBIEN-PHU WHOEVER DUG THAT TRENCH KNOWS HOW TO DEFEND A POSITION...

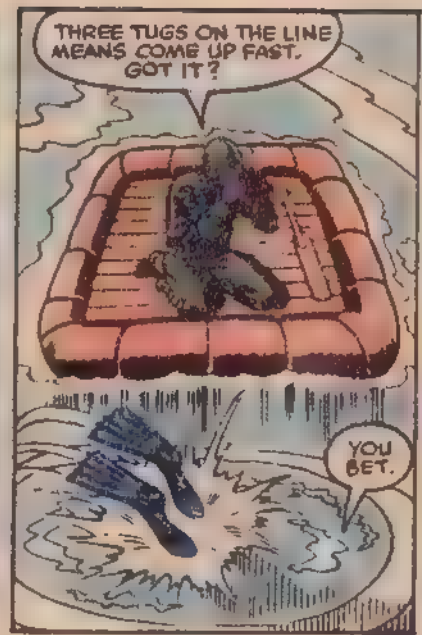

"...TWO MEN IN THE TRENCH. NO TELLING HOW MANY MORE ARE DUG IN AROUND THE PERIMETER..."

PERHAPS WE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL DARK..

RICHTER! PARATROOPS! TWO AT LEAST! IF WE WAIT UNTIL DARK, THEY'LL FLANK US...WE DON'T KNOW HOW MANY MORE ARE OUT THERE!
RIGHT. WE'LL TAKE THE STATION IMMEDIATELY...

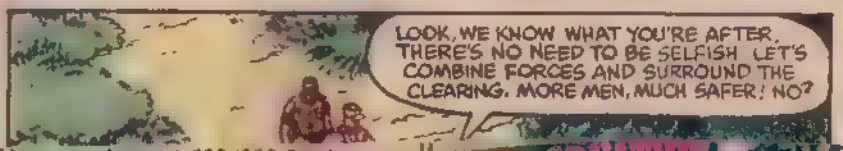

GOOD PLACEMENT, TORPEDO!
I'D RATHER SWIM THAN WALK, DOC...

YOU INFLATE THE RAFT AND STAND BY ON TOP OF THE SAFETY LINE. I'M GOING UNDER...
MNNFFF...

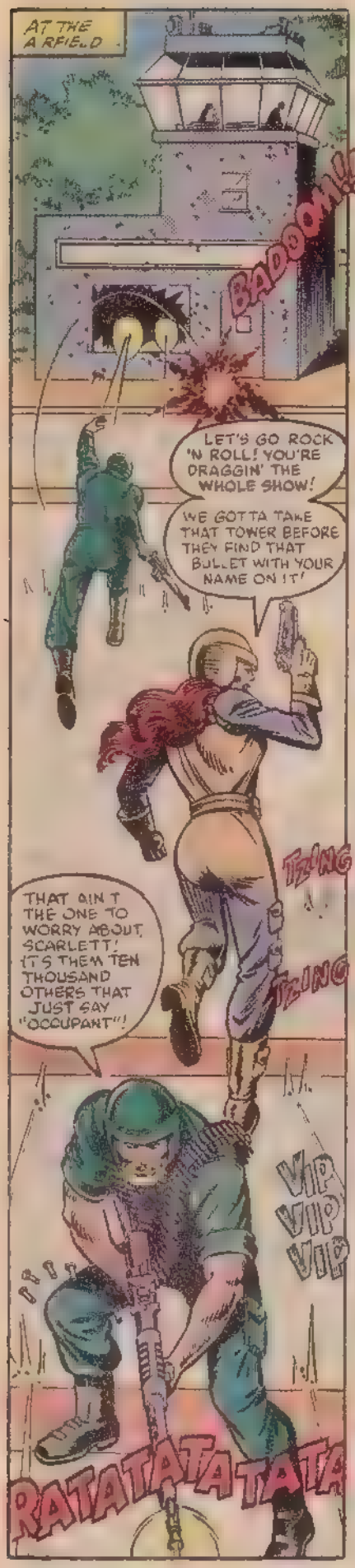

THREE TUGS ON THE LINE MEANS COME UP FAST. GOT IT?
YOU BET.

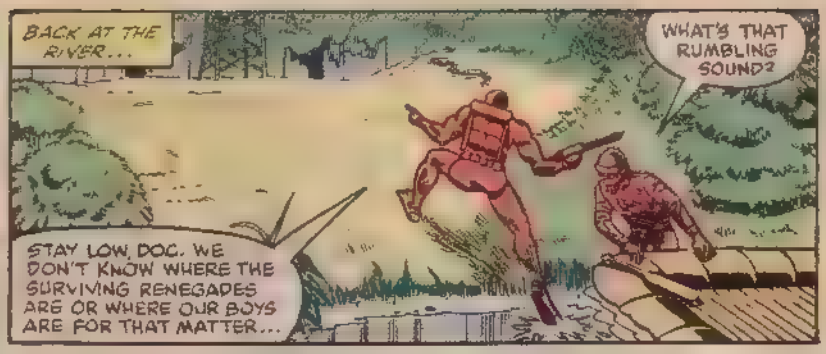
5000 FEET ABOVE THE AIRFIELD..

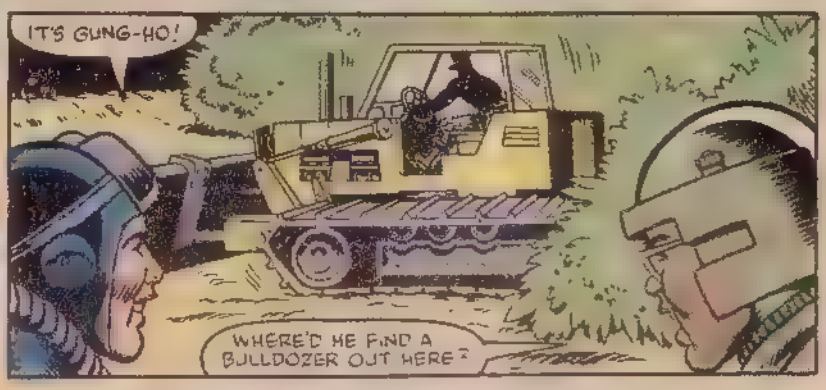
LET'S MOVE THE MEN IN, EMIL--
BUENOS TARDES, AMIGOS!
WHU? ANOTHER SQUAD OF RENEGADE MERCS!

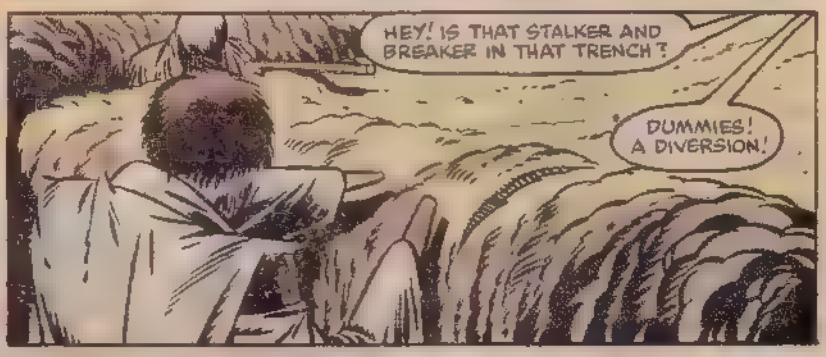

LOOK, WE KNOW WHAT YOU'RE AFTER. THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SELFISH. LET'S COMBINE FORCES AND SURROUND THE CLEARING. MORE MEN, MUCH SAFER! NO?

HAWK TOLD ME THAT THE BUNKER WAS DEMOLISHED LOOKS LIKE IT SURVIVED THE BLAST INTACT AND JUST SANK TO THE RIVER BOTTOM WHEN THE REST OF THE ISLAND BLEW APART..
MUST BE STEEL-REINFORCED CONCRETE... LIKE THE GERMAN SUB-PENS AT ST. NAZAIRE...
MAYBE SOMEBODY SURVIVED..
TAP TAP TAP
THREE TUGS!
TROUBLE?
--AND A MYSTERY! A SQUAD OF RENEGADE MERCS WAS SNEAKING UP ON THE CLEARING.
NOW THEY'VE BEEN JOINED BY A SECOND SQUAD, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THE NEW ARRIVALS ARE UP TO NO GOOD...
NO GOOD? HMMMMM..
...THAT'S ABOUT AS NO-GOOD AS YOU CAN GET!
TAP TAP TAP
AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER


AT THE AIRFIELD
BADOOM!!
LET'S GO ROCK 'N ROLL! YOU'RE DRAGGIN' THE WHOLE SHOW!
WE GOTTA TAKE THAT TOWER BEFORE THEY FIND THAT BULLET WITH YOUR NAME ON IT!
TZING
TZING
THAT AIN'T THE ONE TO WORRY ABOUT, SCARLETT! IT'S THEM TEN THOUSAND OTHERS THAT JUST SAY "OCCUPANT"!
VIP VIP VIP
RATATATATATATA

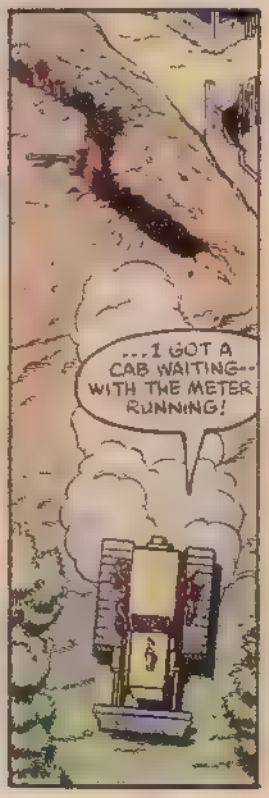

BACK AT THE RIVER...
WHAT'S THAT RUMBLING SOUND?
STAY LOW, DOC. WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THE SURVIVING RENEGADES ARE OR WHERE OUR BOYS ARE FOR THAT MATTER...


IT'S GUNG-HO!
WHERE'D HE FIND A BULLDOZER OUT HERE?

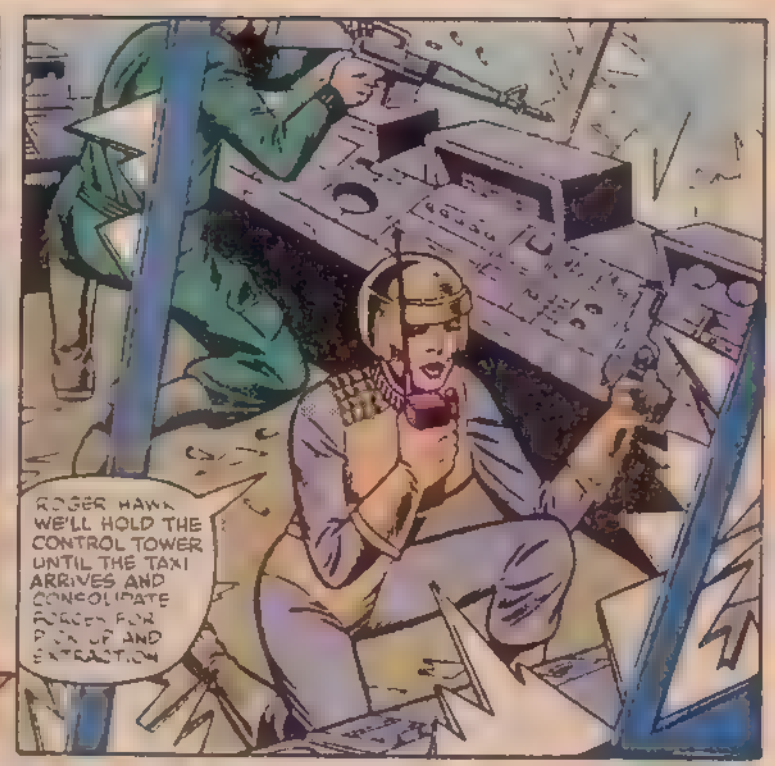

HEY! IS THAT STALKER AND BREAKER IN THAT TRENCH?
DUMMIES! A DIVERSION!

SO WHERE ARE THEY?

UP HERE!
WELL HURRY DOWN AND CLIMB ON THIS HERE 'DOZER.


...I GOT A CAB WAITING-- WITH THE METER RUNNING!

SCARLETT! I'VE SPOTTED A CIVILIAN TAXI SPEEDING TOWARDS THE AIRFIELD BEING CHASED BY TWO LOCAL MILITIA ARMORED CARS.
SOUNDS LIKE OUR BOYS.
RATATATATAT!


ROGER HAWK WE'LL HOLD THE CONTROL TOWER UNTIL THE TAXI ARRIVES AND CONSOLIDATE FORCES FOR PICK UP AND EXTRACTION

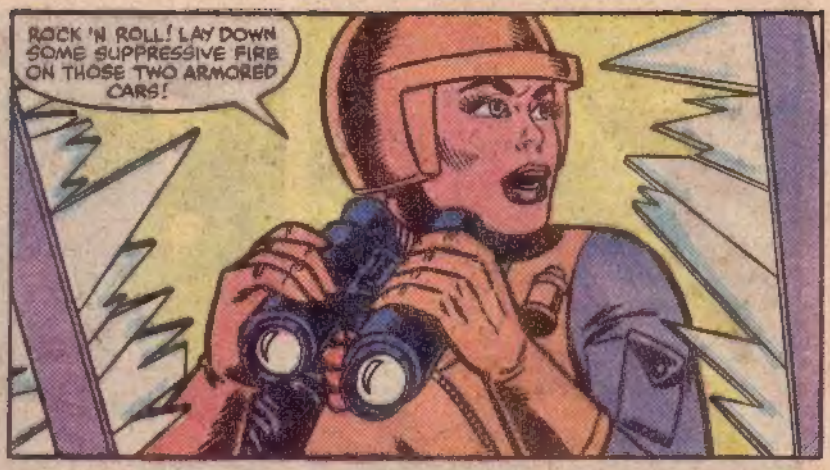
BACK AT THE COBRA RESEARCH STATION
THE JOES HAVE GOT AWAY SAFELY COBRA COMMANDER WILL BE PLEASED
THEY'RE NOT SAFE YET

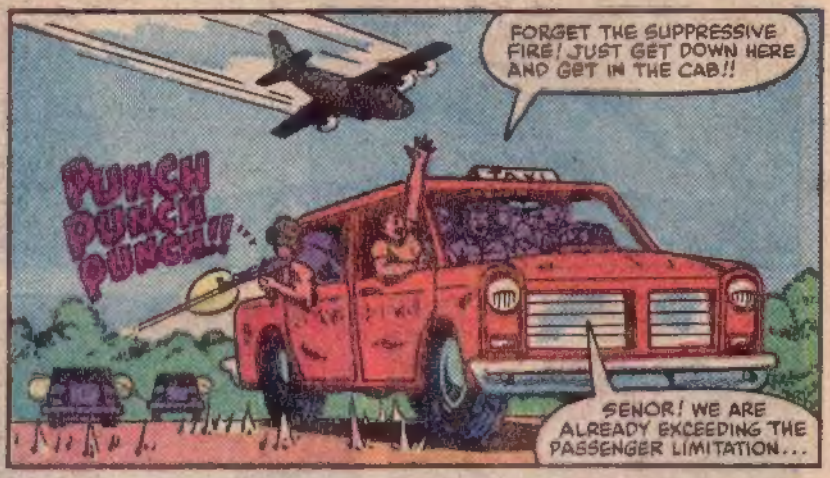
LET'S TAKE A LOOK AND SEE IF THAT COBRA FOUND
WE'D BETTER MAKE SURE THEY FOUND IT AND--

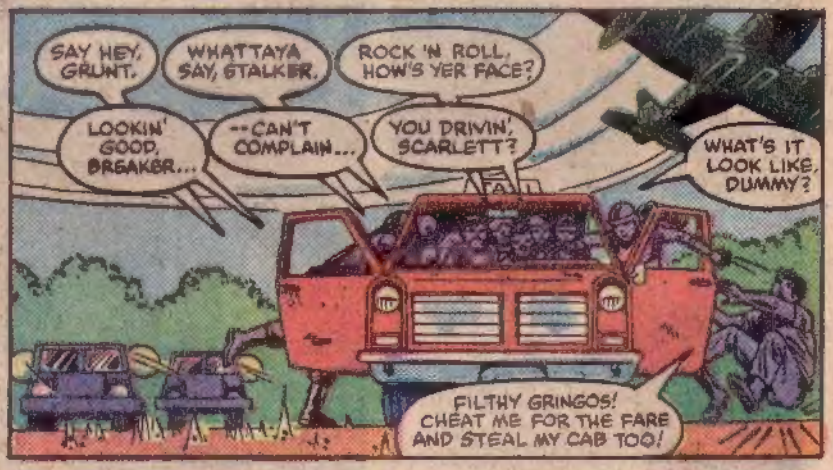
URK!

AAIIIIYYYYYEEEEE

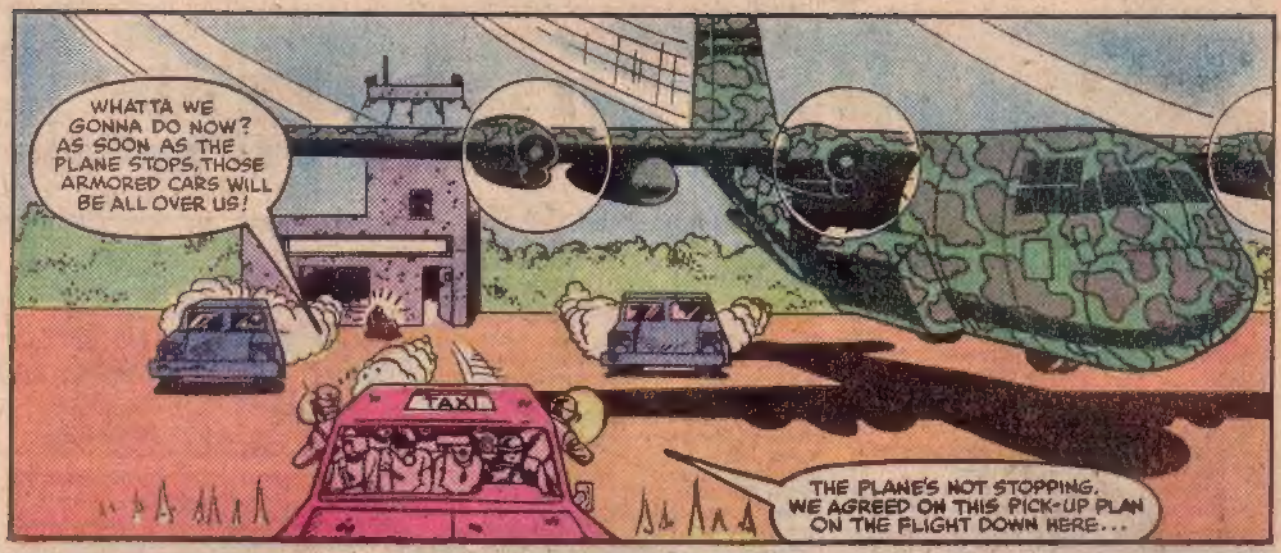
IT'S OUR GUYS! THE TAXI'S HERE! SCARLETT, RADIO HAWK AND--
HE KNOWS! HE'S CIRCLING TO LAND!
WHERE'S THE PLANE? YOU SAID THE PLANE WOULD BE WAITING!
SCREECH!
IT'S WAITING ALRIGHT! UP THERE!!

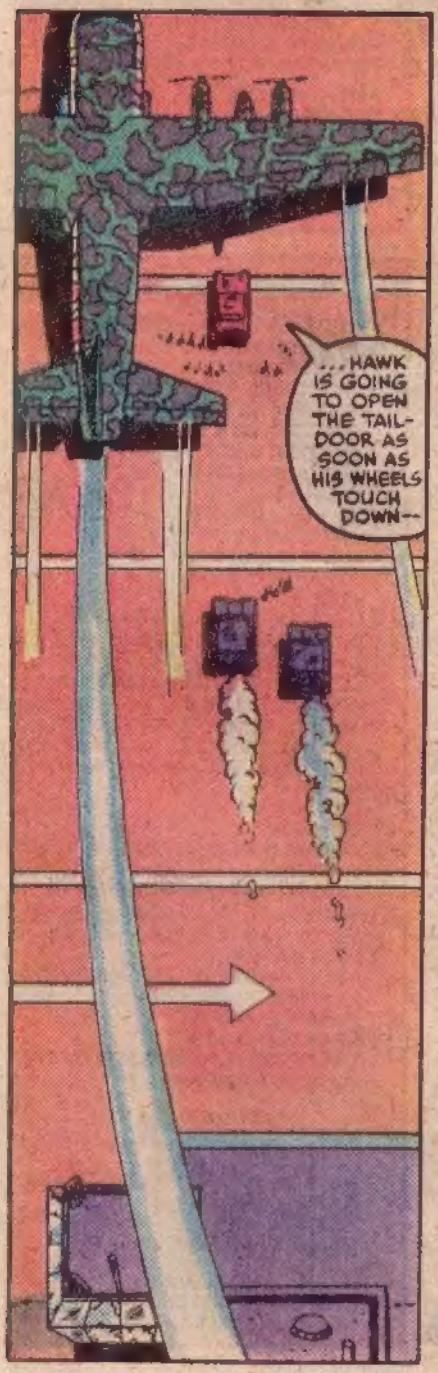

ROCK 'N ROLL! LAY DOWN SOME SUPPRESSIVE FIRE ON THOSE TWO ARMORED CARS!

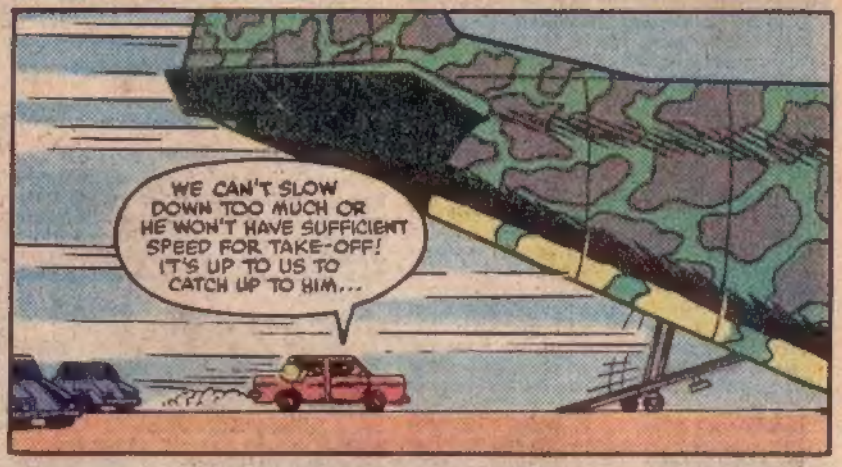

FORGET THE SUPPRESSIVE FIRE! JUST GET DOWN HERE AND GET IN THE CAB!!
PUNCH PUNCH PUNCH!!
TAXI
SENOR! WE ARE ALREADY EXCEEDING THE PASSENGER LIMITATION...

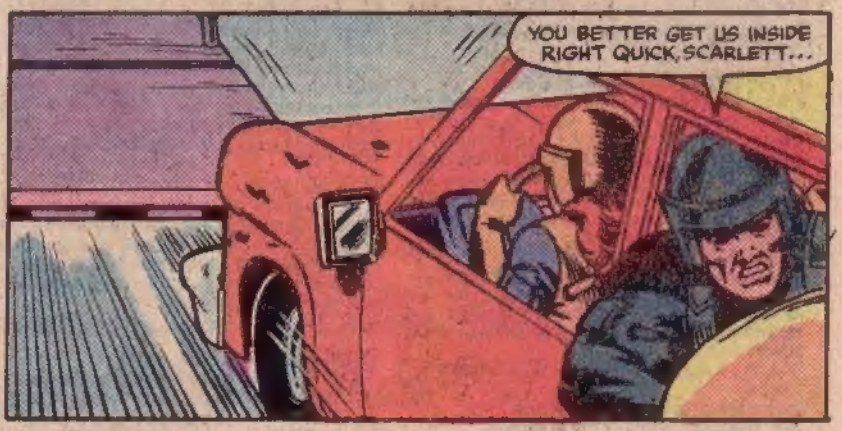

SAY HEY, GRUNT.
WHATTAYA SAY, STALKER.
ROCK 'N ROLL, HOW'S YER FACE?
LOOKIN' GOOD, BREAKER...
--CAN'T COMPLAIN...
YOU DRIVIN', SCARLETT?
WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE, DUMMY?
TAXI
FILTHY GRINGOS! CHEAT ME FOR THE FARE AND STEAL MY CAB TOO!

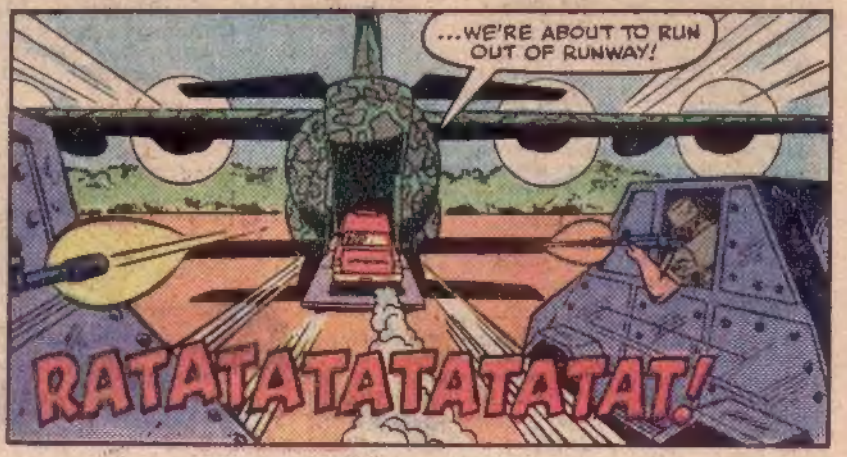
WE DON'T HAVE TO STEAL OR CHEAT. OUR RICH UNCLE IS PAYING FOR EVERYTHING. HERE, KEEP THE CHANGE!
AMERICAN DOLLARS! HUNDRED DOLLAR BILLS!!

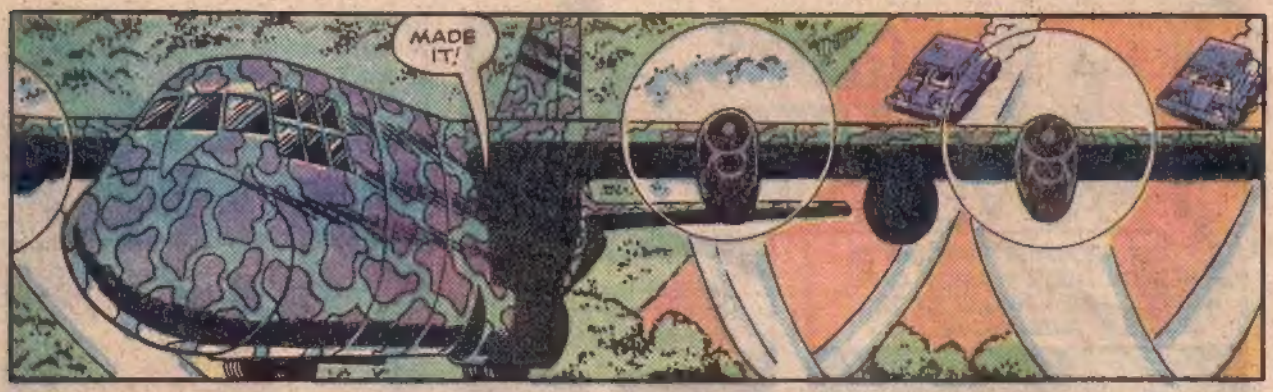

WHATTA WE GONNA DO NOW? AS SOON AS THE PLANE STOPS, THOSE ARMORED CARS WILL BE ALL OVER US!
TAXI
THE PLANE'S NOT STOPPING. WE AGREED ON THIS PICK-UP PLAN ON THE FLIGHT DOWN HERE...

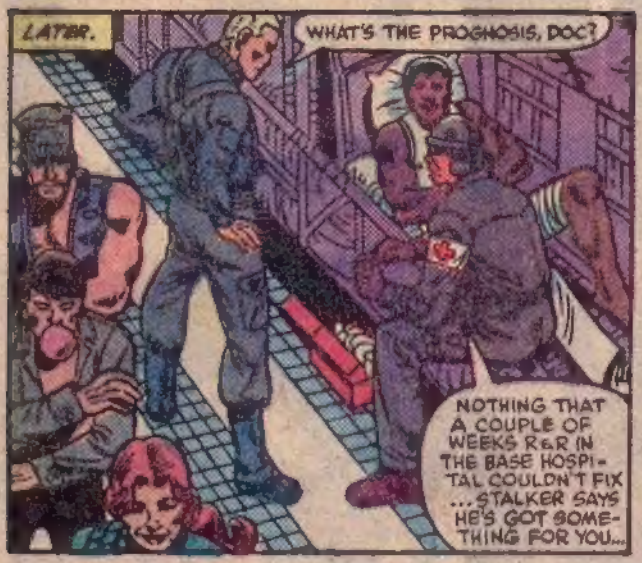

...HAWK IS GOING TO OPEN THE TAIL-DOOR AS SOON AS HIS WHEELS TOUCH DOWN--

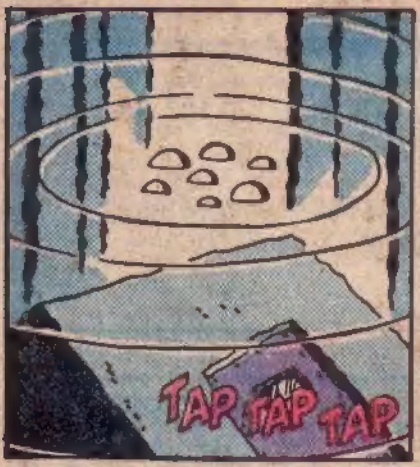

WE CAN'T SLOW DOWN TOO MUCH OR HE WON'T HAVE SUFFICIENT SPEED FOR TAKE-OFF! IT'S UP TO US TO CATCH UP TO HIM...


YOU BETTER GET US INSIDE RIGHT QUICK, SCARLETT...


...WE'RE ABOUT TO RUN OUT OF RUNWAY!
RATATATATATATAT!







NEXT: DESTRO ATTACKS!

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